



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leading by Reading: SDG Book Club confirms new collaborators and announces the launch date at London Book Fair

Today, at the London Book Fair, the United Nations has confirmed new collaborators who will contribute and promote a multi-lingual children's Sustainable Development Goals Book Club. The project now features leading global organisations of publishers, libraries, booksellers, authors and books for youth working together to announce the first selection of books on 2 April during the Bologna Children's Book Fair on the occasion of International Children's Book Day.

The Book Club, first [announced](#) in September 2018, will present a selection of books for children aged 5-12 on each of the Sustainable Development Goals, starting in April. Each month a new SDG will be in focus and a list of relevant books for children will be announced. The initiative will provide an opportunity to encourage children to learn about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and discover new voices and concepts from around the world in all six official UN languages.

The confirmed collaborators of the SDG Book Club are:

- The United Nations
- International Publishers Association (IPA)
- International Federation of Librarian Associations (IFLA)
- European & International Booksellers Federation (EIBF)
- International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)
- Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)

With local events and global reach, this initiative aims to engage young people everywhere, fostering a love of reading and sharing ideas with friends and parents alike. With true sustainability only achievable with the support of the young, the SDG Book Club promises to make a strong contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and targets around literacy and education.

Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations:

"I know first-hand the value of reading as a way to learn. I can hardly think of a better way to capture young hearts and minds than through books. We have created the SDG Book Club not only to inspire children to read and learn, but to empower them to play their part in making the world a better place."

International Publishers Association, José Borghino, Secretary General said:

“As the recent children’s climate strikes have shown, children are keen to learn about their world and how to improve it. The International Publishers Association is excited to be the founding partner of the SDG Book Club together with the UN and believe that by highlighting high-quality, creative children’s books we can inspire more of the next generation to take action and help us all to achieve the SDGs by 2030.”

IFLA, Secretary-General Gerald Leitner said:

“Achieving the Global Goals will need action from everyone. The SDG Book Club offers a great way to introduce today’s young people to the key issues of our time, to mobilise them, and to and prepare them to be the doers and leaders of tomorrow. I am proud that libraries are helping give access to this key information, and to inspire new generations.”

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Executive Director, Liz Page said:

“The International Board on Books for Young People is honoured to be a partner in this pioneering project that supports IBBY’s mission of bringing children and books together. IBBY’s international network will be helping young people learn about and understand why these 17 goals really matter for the future – for their future.”

The European & International Booksellers Federation Director, Julie Belgrado said:

“The European & International Booksellers Federation is thrilled to have been invited to join such a project. There is nothing more important for booksellers than to put books into the hands of readers, especially young ones. The SDG Book Club is a wonderful initiative which will not only get young readers closer to books, it will also bring them closer to the challenges of our world. Giving them access to high quality selected works, which highlight the importance of the SDGs in a playful and simple way, is giving them the possibility to join the debate from an early age and providing them with the keys to shape tomorrow’s world. Booksellers will be really happy to play their part in this project.”

Bologna Children's Book Fair, Exhibition Manager, Elena Pasoli said:

“The Bologna Children's Book Fair is proud to add its voice to this project which fruitfully matches the mission of both the fair and its children's book community. A hard-working community that strives to forge citizens for a better tomorrow, continually creating networks through dialogue and building cultural bridges to feed a new and shared Humanism”.

Further information about the SDG Book Club will be available at the UN Stand (7G10) at the London Book Fair on 12-14 March, and the first selection will be presented on 2 April at the Bologna Children’s Book Fair on the occasion of International Children’s Book Day.

Those interested in future announcements around the book club can sign up to the newsletter:

<http://bit.ly/SDGBKCLUB>

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Notes for Editors

About the Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by world leaders at the historic United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. Encompassing everything from health, to gender equality, and education, the Goals will mobilize efforts around the world to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

About the Collaborating SDG Book Club Organizations (A-Z)

About the Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)

The Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF) is the most important international trade fair of the children's publishing industry. With over 50 years of experience, BCBF has succeeded in bringing together a unique and diverse global audience: the result is the world's premium copyright business hub when it comes to publishing with an extra core that extends to all multi-media content for children.

About the European & International Booksellers Federation (EIBF)

The European and International Booksellers Federation represents national booksellers associations in the European Union and beyond. EIBF Members in turn have in membership booksellers of all kinds: brick and mortar bookshops, online bookshops, independents, chains.

About the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization that represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together. Today IBBY comprises 79 National Sections worldwide.

About International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. Founded in 1927 in Edinburgh, Scotland at an international conference, we celebrated our 90th birthday in 2017. We now have more than 1,300 Members in nearly 150 countries around the world. IFLA was registered in the Netherlands in 1971.

About the International Publishers Association (IPA)

The International Publishers Association (IPA) is the world's largest federation of publishers associations with 81 members in 69 countries. Established in 1896, the IPA is an industry body with a human rights mandate. The IPA's mission is to promote and protect publishing and to raise awareness of publishing as a force for economic, cultural and social development. Working in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and numerous international NGOs, the IPA champions the interests of book and journal publishing at national and supranational level. Internationally, the IPA actively opposes censorship and promotes copyright, freedom to publish (including through the IPA Prix Voltaire), and literacy.